

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for July 26, 2016

Attendance: Wendy DeMann, Syanna Madsen, Ian Wright, Rebecca Santa Cruz, Sara Roach
Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Will Perez

1. Minutes for June 28, 2016 were approved as written.
2. The pioneer home tour was a success. A total of 29 people attended the Miller home tour and 47 people attended the Walton home tour. Mary Ann thanked Wendy and Rebecca for their excellent storytelling parts. Family members from both the Walton and Huffacker family attended. Kirk Huffacker from the Utah Heritage Foundation who is a Huffacker relative attended the event. Scott Pierce from the Salt Lake Tribune attended and did a great story in the Sunday Tribune.
3. Mary Ann said she is still working on board replacements. Debbie Hansen's daughter is interested. Another woman who attended the tour also expressed interest. Mary Ann will contact her. Sara suggested someone who lived next to Wheeler Farm but is moving to Holladay. Mary Ann is trying to find someone with a professional historic preservation background if possible.
4. Two fall events are scheduled. A morning plein air art event along the Jordan River Parkway and afternoon show and sell exhibit at city hall will be combined with museum day on September 24 with the intent to increase the audience. We will design some new exhibits in the hallways related to the Murray High Centennial. Mary Ann has asked alumni and the public to bring an object related to Murray High to display. She hopes to create some children activities as part of this event and we can give them the leftover brag tags from last year.

The Alano Club is willing to let us use their building (the Murray 2nd Ward), for our Halloween storytelling event. Board members chose Saturday, October 22 as the date since the following week was not available. Syanna suggested a Saturday is easier for board members to help. We could set up an exhibit about the historic building and the true story itself. We will repeat the show at 6:30, 7:30, and 8:30 pm. Wendy liked the idea of being indoors. She will have the script ready by our September board meeting so we can rehearse the script. It focuses on a true story about a woman who tried to poison her family and the two youngest children died. The funeral was held in the Murray 2nd Ward and Jenkins Soffe Mortuary handled the burial activities. She is going to tell the story through a courtroom scene. Some of the clients at the Alano Club may want to be involved.

5. Mary Ann noted that Bunny fell and is no longer working for the city. Volunteers will help keep the museum open for the next few weeks until we figure out what to do for staffing. This is a good time to transition museum staffing to the 30 hour benefitted position. Mary Ann has looked at her budget and thinks she can do this within her current budget. But the city council will need

to come up with some funding for a 20 hour administrative assistant position in January to keep the succession plan moving forward properly. Doug is setting up a meeting with the Mayor to discuss this situation. Mary Ann expressed concern that the city was considering closing the museum until the new library is built. This would require storing all the artifacts somewhere which would take up just as much room as the current museum space. This could create a situation the museum was in several decades ago that resulted in storing the donations for 25 years and destroying many artifacts. She felt it was important to find a temporary space that could become permanent space if the library idea does not work. That could include the old library on 6100 South, the Power building, or Murray Theater. We own all of those buildings. Board members agreed the city has an obligation to maintain the museum because of the EPA mitigation monies that was provided to create the museum. They also need to respect donors who have given family possessions to exhibit for the public. Ian will make an appointment with the Mayor to discuss future museum operations and the need for staffing to increase programming.

6. Mary Ann shared photos of three homes that will be demolished on Edison Street. She expressed disappointment over the loss of a cute 1928 home that appears to be in good exterior condition. These are not on our register, but they are older than 50 years. The city demolition process requires owners to contact the history office. If it is on the register, the board reviews it and makes suggestions for documenting the building. If it is 50 years or older and is not on the register, Mary Ann requests a photo which can be found on Google for current photos and the Salt Lake County assessor's office for historic photos. This is kept in a city file and often is scanned for our photo collection. Rebecca asked if the historic materials could be purchased. Mary Ann said that option is up to the owner and the demolition company who often sells those items. The public would need to contact them.
7. ILS research packets were delivered to homeowners. All of them were interested in a national register nomination except the owners on Bullion Street who were not home. A few of them were not recommended by state staff for NR nominations but we could still move them forward based on historic significance. This was especially applicable to 121 W 5900 South. The owner indicated he would like the summer kitchen researched better. Wendy thought the Maxfield Irrigation was also part of this property and should be included in the narrative. It also features an architectural style not in our multiple property listing. We can review these in the coming months and use a grant to prepare the nominations. The addresses of 198 W Winchester, 187 E 5600 South, 1200 W Bullion, and 1697 E Vine had good NR potential.
8. Board members reviewed the final draft for the vision statement. Rebecca suggested we add the word "state" education standards in the last bullet. Wendy moved to formally adopt the vision statement with that additional and Rebecca seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Everyone agreed it highlighted the key elements of space, staffing, and programming for a successful museum.

As the steward of Murray history, the Murray City Museum's purpose is to document, preserve, study, and interpret the history of Murray. To fulfill its mission, Murray History Advisory Board and museum leadership envision:

- Visible and accessible location with space of 7,000+ sq feet to host changing exhibits and interactive experiences that enhance our permanent exhibits
- Best practices in museum administration with professional staffing who can support proper care of city historic assets, enhanced programming and longer museum hours
- Increased interaction and visitation through community events, resource accessibility, and programming within the museum
- Outreach programming that educates the community and meets state educational standards for school instruction

9. The historic street signage should be arriving soon.